HOLIDAY IDEA GUIDE FOR STRAGGLERS, PG23







Will junk food get juiced up?

ENZYME Ottawa wants to know what you think about its unusual proposal to put a cancer-fighting drug into junk food

Health Canada is inviting public comments until Feb. 21 on its idea to have small amounts of the enzyme asparaginase put into foods like potato chips and french

On its website, Health Canada says its scientists have finished a detailed safety assessment on the enzyme and haven't found any health or safety concerns.

At issue is the chemical acrylamide, which is found as a cooking byproduct in the production of foods like french fries and potato chips and has been linked to cancer in animals. Research suggests asparaginase reduces acrylamide production. THE CANADIAN PRESS

News on the Maye

What's this barcode for? the barcode with





A stress-free vacation



Trends of the decade



Last-minute gift dash

With only two shopping days left, procrastinators take to the malls

TRACEY TONG and TIM WIECLAWSKI

There are people who start their Christmas shopping in November and have had their gifts wrapped and under the tree for weeks.

And then there's Jess Routh.

The Ottawa resident, who started his Christmas shopping Monday, braved the crowds at the Rideau Centre again yesterday

"I'm a pro- out of bed early crastinator by just to be able to the profession- avoid the crowd." al body piercer. Andrea White

Even though he left it to the last minute, he managed to wrap up his shopping, crossing eight people off his list in just over an hour. The day before, he bought presents for six people in 45 minutes.

His secret? Have an idea of what you're looking for, but don't be too specific.

"I go in with a general concept," he said.

Andrea White had been so busy with work as a teacher at Samuel Genest High School she had not been able to do any shopping until the students were let out for Christmas break.

"I pretty much left everything until the last minute," she said yesterday, walking out of the Bay store downtown with an armload of bags.

White said she usually buys most of her gifts in a "one-day blitz." She started early yesterday morning and finished her shopping before 2 p.m.

"It's worth getting out of bed early just to be able to

avoid the crowd," she said. The crowds are absolutely frustrating around this time of year, Routh agreed. "You have two kinds of people the people who are in full gear and pushing and shov-

ing, and the again yesterua, afternoon for "It's worth getting people in ited tral, who have no clue what they're doing.' Friends

Chelsea Honeyman and Jill McMillan wit-

nessed frenzied shoppers descend on freshly un-packed Olympic paraphernalia vesterdav.

"People were swarming around the bins," Honeyman said.

Loaded down with pack-Honeyman called ages. their trip downtown "a fullon last-minute shopping extravaganza.'

Although she went on "a hectic recon mission" Sunday, the crowds were far worse yesterday, she said.

At the Lost Marbles novelty and collectibles shop on William Street, manager Kader Blaine said store traffic has been steadily increasing since November.

"December has been pretty busy," he said.



shopping at the Rideau Centre yesterday. The high school teacher was so busy that this was her first opportunity to get out and buy gifts.

Unsolved cases high on cops' to-do list for year end

TRACEY TONG tracey.tong@metronews.ca

As 2009 draws to a close, Ottawa police are looking for the public's assistance in a few unsolved cases from this year.

Police continue to investigate two recent fatal colli-

Last Friday at about 8:43 p.m., a 58-year-old Ottawa

man was crossing Bank Street north of Kilborn Avenue when he was struck and killed by a northbound grey Dodge Ram pickup truck.

Collision investigators are seeking witnesses. charges have been laid.

On Nov. 27, a collision between a motorcycle and a car at Richmond Road and High Street killed 44-yearold David Wray of Carleton

Police seek a vehicle of interest, a light silver or grey four-door vehicle believed to be an Acura 3.2 TL with dents or damage in the area of the lower right-side passenger doors. Police are following up on tips and said they are visiting the owners of vehicles matching the description.

Police also continue to investigate several homicide cases from previous years. A pair of brown-framed

Foster Grant reading glasses found near Lincoln Heights Park are still the only lead in relation to the Pamela Kosmack homicide, said Ottawa Police Const. Al Boucher.

Kosmack, 39, was found murdered near a west-end bicycle path on June 4,

It's been two-and-a-half years since police discov-

ered the bodies of retired tax judge Alban Garon, his wife, Raymonde, and their Marie-Claire neighbour Beniskos in the Garon's Riverside Drive condo.

Police are also looking for assistance in the Paul Simard homicide. The 63year-old Commissionaire was found bound in the basement of his Meadowlands Drive home in April 2007



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Local



Canadawide warrant on local offender

Ottawa police are asking for the public's assistance in locating a federal offender wanted on a Canadawide warrant as a result of his breach of parole. Marcel Bouliane, 35, is from the Ottawa area but also has contacts in the La Pêche area and in Kingston. He is serving two years and three months for charges including three counts of break and enter and two counts of failing to comply with release conditions. Bouliane is a white male, six feet, two inches tall, 200 pounds, with brown eves and brown hair.

METRO INTERNATIONAL NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

Senators knock 20-30% off 9 home games

TIX Tickets to nine Ottawa Senators home games will be cheaper next year.

In an effort to boost game day attendance, the hockey club is eliminating gold and silver game cate-

gories as of New Year's Day. That means tickets to eight games will be reduced by 20 per cent, while the March 16 game against the Toronto Maple Leafs will be discounted by 30 per cent.

Fans who have already purchased tickets will receive a refund for the difference in price.

This is the latest in an effort to reverse a trend of declining attendance at Scotiabank Place. Last week, the teams announced a series of initiatives aimed at increasing season ticket holders.

TIM WIECLAWSKI/METRO OTTAWA

Still room in Sally Ann's pots

Kettle drive — ending tomorrow night — \$120K short of goal

TRACEY TONG tracey.tong@metronews.ca

Barring a Christmas miracle, the Salvation Army here will fall short of its \$500,000 goal for its kettle campaign.

As of yesterday, the Salvation Army had three days to raise \$120,000 in order to meet its goal of half a million dollars before the campaign closes on Christmas Eve.

"It's a big hill," said Salvation Army spokesman Michael Maidment. "But I'm very hopeful that we can reach the goal."

The money raised through the kettles stays locally, and helps more than 20,000 people through 22 community family services programs.

"The programs assist families with basic needs like food hampers and warm clothing, snowsuits for children, winter clothing for adults and provides things like vouchers for furniture, beds, toiletries and diapers, said Maidment.

The Salvation Army also administers programs in-

m.metrenews.ca



Year-long cause

 While the kettles will end after tomorrow, the Salva-Army continues to fundraise year round. People can continue to give online at Salvationarmy.ca or by calling 1-800-SAL-ARMY. New this year, Rogers and Bell Mobility subscribers can make a \$5 donation by texting the word "hope" to

cluding Winter Warmth, which is funded by Hydro Ottawa and Enbridge Gas, and Rent Bank, a program that helps people at risk of eviction pay their rent. The charity also offers a program called Money Wise, which helps families and individuals on fixed incomes come up with a budget and a plan through financial coaching, and distributes toys collected through the Toy Mountain program.
"If we don't meet our

goal, then we can't help as many people," he said. "That's worrisome because we know that in 2009, we saw a significant increase in people who came to the Salvation Army for assistance," he said. "Largely, what we're seeing is the effect of the recession. We expect that increase to continue through early 2010."

Another reason for the shortfall is because the way the calendar falls -



Five-year Salvation Army volunteer Kathy Morin collects donations at The Bay downtown vesterday. Some people. knowing that it has been a hard year economically, have been giving more generously this year, she said.

with Christmas on a Friday, there is one fewer weekend to collect donations, Maidment said.

This year, the kettles are set up in 32 locations, including at malls and LCBO, Costco and Wal-Mart locations. In the last few days. additional locations have popped up in an effort to collect more funds, but by the time the last kettle closes tomorrow evening, the organization still expects to be \$25,000 to \$30,000 short.

Recalling origins of Christmas

CHRISTIANS Beyond the carols, gifts, and lights, Christmas is a celebration of the birth of Jesus, the Son of God, for Christians.

"It is to remember that 2,000 years ago, God took on our human flesh and became in every way like we are, but without sin, to save us and to grant us the gift of promise of eternal life." said Father Joseph Muldoon, Episcopal vicar and assistant to the archbishop of Ottawa, with the Catholic archdiocese. "At Christmas, in a sense, we basically celebrate the gift of God's love for us.'

According to the 2001 census, nearly 80 per cent of Ottawa residents identified themselves as belonging to a denomination of Christianity.

"It's one of the touchstones of the year, a celebration of hope," said James Murray, senior minister at the Dominion-Chalmers United Church on Cooper Street. "It's a significant time. People are looking for the birth of hope in the world. They're looking for a belief in a better world that things can change.'

Most Catholic churches in Ottawa will hold latenight services on Christmas Eve, usually spanning midnight. Most will also offer a service earlier in the evening for young families. TIM WIECLAWSKI/METRO OTTAWA

News in brie CHARGES Police have charged a

Truro, N.S., man in connection with four breaking and entering incidents here over the last month. On Monday, Ottawa police arrested a man in a Florence Street backyard after they received a call for a break and enter in progress at an apartment building, Jason Alexander MacNab, 33, was in court yesterday. METRO OTTAWA



What's online today.

Video For Canadian troops in Afghanistan, it's the smallest acts of kindness that make the biggest difference at

metronews.ca/canada **Blogs** Backbeat suggests giving the gift of vinyl this year

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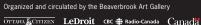
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Man convicted in RCMP officer's death planning appeal

4

The man found guilty of first-degree murder in the shooting death of a Hay River, N.W.T., RCMP officer has launched an appeal. Jurors last month in Yellowknife convicted Emrah Bulatci, 25, in the killing of Const. Christopher Worden in October 2007. Bulatci received the mandatory sentence of life in prison with no chance of parole for at least 25 years. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada



Missing teen might be in Lafleur video

Quebec police have released a clip of a recent television interview with hockey great Guy Lafleur, in the hopes of cracking a missing teen case. In the 11-second clip, a teenager bearing a strong resemblance to missing Quebecer David Fortin appears in the background. The Lafleur interview was recorded at Montreal's Bell Centre in early December. Fortin, 15, disappeared last February after leaving his Alma, Que., home for school.

Court rules for new libel defence

The Supreme Court of Canada offered journalists and bloggers a new defence against libel yesterday in a pair of rulings that were hailed as a landmark victory for free speech.

The rulings effectively exonerated the Toronto Star and Ottawa Citizen newspapers and created the new "responsible journalism"

defence that will give reporters more leeway to pursue controversial stories as long as they are deemed to be in the public interest. Media lawyers hailed the

reation of the new defence as a major step towards reducing so-called libel chill, which prompts journalists to back away from contentious stories for fear of being sued, often by power-

Factual errors

• The rulings mean journalists can make factual errors, but as long as they take a series of steps to ensure fairness in sto-

ful interests with deep pockets to pay their lawyers.

The rulings also saved the two newspapers from pay-

ries that are deemed to be in the public interest, they cannot be successfully sued for libel.

ing out more than \$1.5 million in damages, including \$1 million for punitive damages against the Star, one of the largest such awards in

Canadian libel history.

The Star story in question was about controversial plans for a golf course, while the Citizen's articles scrutinized the activities of a former police officer.

Chief Justice Beverly McLachlin, writing for the unanimous 90 court, said the existing libel defences were too restrictive.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Boycott does not stop detainee meeting

AFGHANISTAN A House of Commons committee looking into the Afghan detainee controversy is going ahead with a meeting today despite a boycott by Conservative MPs.

Conservative MPs.
Liberal, NDP and Bloc Québécois MPs on the special committee on Afghanistan decided to hold an informal meeting after they failed to achieve quorum.

They are hearing from retired diplomat Gar Pardy and Paul Champ, lawyer for the B.C. Civil Liberties Association.

Pardy recently organized a letter from more than 100 former ambassadors criticizing the Harper government for attacking the credibility of diplomat Richard Colvin, who says

Opposition

• New Democrat MP Paul Dewar said the Tories would rather "slurp eggnog and eat bon bons" than get to the bottom of this issue.

he warned the government in 2006 about torture.

The committee is looking into whether the government knew prior to 2007 that detainees being handed over by Canadian troops to Afghan authorities were being abused.

The government insists it never knew of any abuse before 2007, when it changed the prisoner transfer agreement to allow for monitoring.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Kandahar Early Christmas for troops



Master Warrant Officer Charlotte Hawes serves Christmas dinner at the Canadian military-civilian outreach base in Kandahar, Afghanistan, yesterday. Soldiers, many sporting Santa hats or reindeer horns, enjoy some holiday fun and food.

News in brief

HEALTH Ontario's information and privacy commissioner has launched an investigation after the health information of more than 83,000 people who attended H1N1 flu clinics in Durham Region, east of Toronto, was apparently lost.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Embassy lacking in beer options

WASHINGTON Canada has a reputation for producing a wide variety of excellent beers, but tipplers visiting the Canadian Embassy had just three choices of brews recently — Molson Canadian, Alexander Keith's Ale or Blue Light.

According to documents obtained through Freedom of Information legislation, the gleaming embassy on iconic Pennsylvania Avenue offers up a long list of Canadian wines to visitors, among them pinot noirs, merlots, Gewurztraminers and rieslings from an array of vineyards across the country.

Pity the poor Canadian beer drinker, however as of Oct. 31 of this year, only those three basic brews were available.

As craft breweries and brew pubs take off in Canada, one Canadian beer expert says it's a shame the embassy isn't doing a better job introducing Americans to some quality suds brewed north of the 49th parallel.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

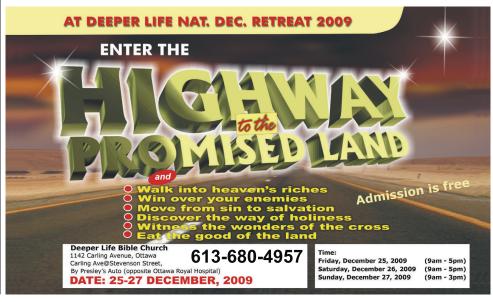
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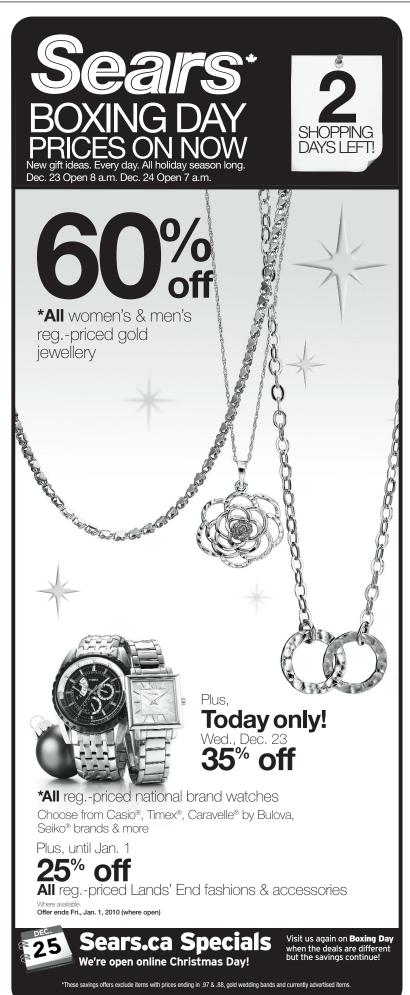


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canada

Quebec backpedals on power deal

Charest says agreement to buy NB Power still up for negotiation

The Quebec government was suddenly singing a more conciliatory tune over its planned purchase of New Brunswick's power utility, suggesting yesterday the deal was still open for negotiation.

Just one day after Que-bec's natural resources minister suggested the purchase of NB Power was a done deal and would not be changed, both she and Premier Jean Charest were saying the exact opposite.

"There are discussions," Charest told TVA network. "There could be improvements. It could hap-

For her part, Natural Resources Minister Nathalie Normandeau had a strkingly different message from the one she delivered

24 hours earlier.

She now says an agreement-in-principle signed on Oct. 29, and that negotiations are continu-ing as New Brunswick Pre-Shawn Graham brings forward the concerns of critics who aren't yet sold on the deal.

"It's in this spirit of openness that our discussions continue with New Brunswick," Normandeau said in an interview.

"There's an important nuance to make between renegotiating an agree-ment-in-principle and making adjustments."

The sale is a hot potato for the New Brunswick government, which has come under intense political fire over its plan to sell NB Power's assets to Hydro-Quebec for about \$4.8

"There could be improvements. It could happen."

Jean Charest, Quebec premier

Critics have slammed the government for selling off key assets. Neighbouring provinces and states have also expressed concern, arguing that it will create a quasi-monopoly for Hydro Quebec in the Atlantic region.

The Opposition Conservatives in New Brunswick have also complained that the details are not being properly shared with the public.

The government has defended the sale by saying the money will help the province make invest-ments in areas, like educa-tion, that will lead to a more prosperous future for New Brunswick.

It has also sought to fend off much of the criticism by saying final details are still being worked out.

Normandeau's suggestion Monday that negotiations were finished raised some eyebrows in New Brunswick. A spokesman for Graham said she clearly made a mistake and, as a result, the New Brunswick government would not comment.

Normandeau said the ultimate goal it to reach a mutually beneficial deal that's a "win-win" for that s ...
everybody.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

PM does not rule out carbon tax

POLITICS Prime Minister Stephen Harper is not ruling out a carbon tax for Canada sometime in the future.

Harper was asked point blank in a year-end interview with CTV News whether Canadians will ever see such a tax. He responded simply that he hopes not to go down that road. He said the government will have to see what the U.S. decides to do so it can be part of a harmo-

NE124G509 © 2009. Sears Canada In

nized North American climate-change plan. Harper and his Conserva-

tives hammered former Liberal Leader Stéphane Dion for making a carbon tax the centrepiece of his environmental plan during the last election.

Such tax proposals are generally applied to fossil fuel consumption to help encourage industry and the public to change their behaviour.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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On now until Thursday, December 24th



Gamblers at casino get a lucky break — crashing pickup misses them

Canada Patrons dived for cover early yesterday when a police chase ended with a pickup truck plowing into the Niagara Fallsview Casino in Niagara Falls, stopping a short distance from the gaming floor. Police say the pursuit began after a domestic dispute. A man has been charged with several offences, including attempted murder. THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

SEX Researchers in Halifax have concluded men feel quilty following sexual infidelity, while women feel guilty after an emotional transgression. The study has been named one of the most provocative sex science stories of 2009 by the website LiveScience.com.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Donated kidneys falling short: Study

gap between supply and demand for donated kidneys for transplant is widening in Canada.

The report, released yes-terday by the Canadian Institute for Health Informaa significant increase in the number of kidney transplants over the past

But there has also been a decline in the number of these transplants relative "The need for transplantable organs has never been greater." Dr. John Gill, University of B.C.

failure patients six transplants per 100 patient years of dialysis in 2008, compared to eight transplants per 100 patient of dialysis

vice-president of programs at the institute, says the rise in demand is partly due to an increase in diabetes-related kidney failure cases in Canada.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



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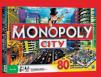
































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Experts say a dog in suburban New York City is the United States' first confirmed to be carrying the same strain of H1N1 flu that is infecting humans. The 13-year-old mixed-breed male is recovering. Animals can carry flu viruses, but Dr. Anne Schuchat of the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says "this is not a reason to be concerned." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World



Big Christmas haul in Spain

Spain's Christmas lottery showered hundreds of thousand of euros in prize money on Madrid yesterday. The top prize of the lottery, ranked among the world's richest, went to holders of tickets bearing the number 78294, displayed by two lottery workers, left. The number appears on 1,950 tickets, and each holder stood to win about \$430,000. Two immigrant workers from the Dominican Republic were among the winners. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Italy What is this, Toronto?



Italian soldiers hold shovels as they walk past the Duomo cathedral in Milan vesterday. Italy has sent hundreds of soldiers to the streets of Milan after heavy snowstorms and freezing temperatures forced airports to be closed and trains to be halted. About 600 soldiers have begun to shovel snow.

Teen pleads no contest in Facebook sex scam

A Wisconsin teenager who blackmailed dozens of fellow high school students into sex acts by using photos and videos obtained in a Facebook scam faces up to 50 years in prison after pleading no contest to two felonies yesterday.

Anthony R. Stancl, 19, had faced 12 charges that carried a maximum penalty of nearly 300 years. He pleaded no contest to repeated sexual assault of the same child and third-degree sexual assault. In exchange, dismissed

News in brief

BRITAIN An English priest is

giving some unconventional

holiday advice — shoplifting

may be OK. Rev. Tim Jones was

charges that included second-degree sexual assault, child enticement and possession of child pornogra-

Stancl was accused of posing as a girl online and persuading more than 30 classmates to send him naked pictures of themselves, then using the images to blackmail them for sex.

Authorities found more than 30 folders on Stancl's computer containing about 300 nude images of other male students at New Berlin Eisenhower High School.

rebuked by fellow clergy and

shop owners yesterday after

which he said it was

delivering a Sunday sermon in

The investigation began after a 16-year-old boy told authorities he was being blackmailed into acts of oral and anal sex with Stan-

The boy, then 15, had exchanged explicit pictures of himself online with "Kayla," who later threatened to spread his picture throughout the school unless he agreed to the acts with Stan-Stancl photographed those encounters, giving him fodder for further blackmail, detectives said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

sometimes acceptable for des-

perate people to shoplift from

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

large chain stores.

Court orders amputations

Dog recovering from H1N1 flu

PAKISTAN A Pakistani court has ordered the noses and ears of two men cut off after they did the same thing to a young woman whose family spurned one of the men's marriage pro-posal, a prosecutor said yesterday. The court in the eastern city of Lahore said it was applying Islamic law by ordering the punishment. Sher Mohammad and a friend, Amanat Mohammad, were accused of kidnapping a woman and cutting off her ears and nose in September.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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12 wor

Former mountain biker pleads guilty Former U.S. mountain bike world champion Melissa Giove has pleaded guilty to helping run a coast-to-coast marijuana smuggling ring. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Details could scuttle prisoner swap

er-demands yesterday for a deal with Hamas to exchange about 1,000 Palestinian prisoners for a single Israeli soldier held captive by Gaza militants for more than three years.

As families on both sides agonized over the outcome, last-minute differences over who should be freed or sent into exile threatened to imperil the deal.

Israel insists on expelling some West Bankborn prisoners to the Hamas-ruled Gaza Strip or abroad and balks at releasing some inmates high on the Hamas wish list, said a senior Hamas official who spoke on condition of anonymity because he is not supposed to brief re-

Marathon discussions

 In recent days, marathon discussions about the swap at the top level of Israel's government conveyed a sense of urgency. However, more than three years of negotiations following the capture of the Israeli soldier have been shrouded in a fog of disinfor-

porters.

Israeli Defence Minister Ehud Barak appeared to be trying to temper expectations when he told a group of students that returning Sgt. Gilad Schalit was a "top priority" — but "not at any price," a reference to Palestinian prisoners convicted of bloody attacks

The Hamas official said

mation and spin, leading to repeated false alarms that a deal is close. The decision on whether to accept what would be the biggest swap in years is crucial for Hamas, which wrested Gaza from Westernbacked Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas in 2007.

that while progress has been made, a deal is not imminent

A Hamas website, al-Risalah, said a German mediator would meet later with Hamas leaders in Gaza who will "take a final and conclusive decision on what the German mediator brings from his visit to the occupied territories.'

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

HAWAII A woman accused of telling the U.S. Secret Service she would "blow away" Michelle Obama was in federal custody yesterday as the Obama family planned to travel to Hawaii. Kristy Lee Roshia, 35, was charged with threatening a family member of the president and assaulting a federal agent

after being arrested Saturday less than two miles from where the Obama family planned to stay during a holiday visit later this week. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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14world

Russia posts record arms sales for post-Soviet era

The head of a Russian government agency in charge of arms trade has been quoted by news wires saying Russia will set a post-Soviet record in arms sales this year. While China has reduced purchases of Russian weapons, other nations, such as Venezuela and Algeria, have become major customers. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Investigators surround a suspect in last week's Auschwitz theft.

Foreign link cited in sign theft

A foreigner outside of Poland commissioned the brazen theft of the infamous Auschwitz sign, officials said, and detectives must expand their investigation beyond the country's borders.

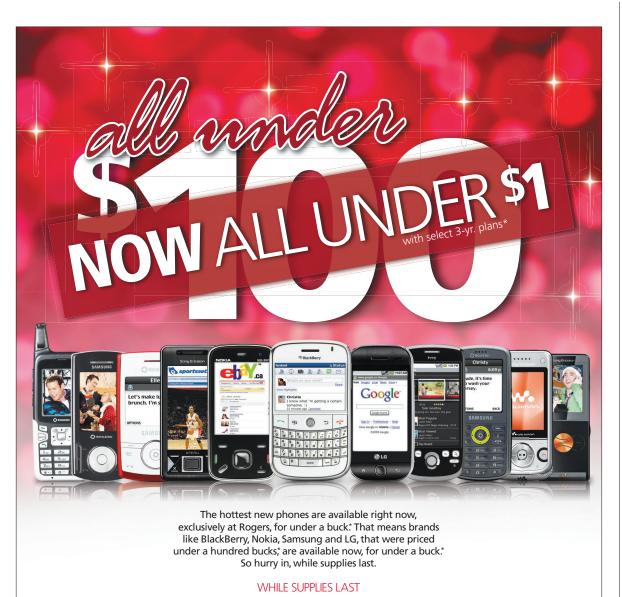
In an effort to learn more about the escapade,

the investigators held an re-enactment of the theft by the three men who confessed to taking the sign from the former Nazi death camp at Auschwitz.

The sign, which hung over the entrance to the camp, reads "Arbeit macht frei," which means "Work sets you free" in German. Based on the evidence gathered since the theft Friday, it appears the crime was commissioned by a "person living outside Poland," and police are seeking help from Interpol and others as they investigate, said Artur Wrona,

Krakow's chief prosecutor. Polish media have reported that someone in Sweden could be under suspicion, but Wrona refused to confirm or deny the claims. Swedish officials said they had not been contacted.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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Channel rail service resumes after major shutdown

STRANDED Eurostar scrambled to get tens of thou-sands of passengers home for the holidays as it resumed service of high-speed trains under the English Channel yesterday, four days after a service shutdown caused by snow.

The first train pulled out of Paris's Gare du Nord in the morning, carrying 750 passengers, many of whom had been stranded since the rail link between Britain, France and Belgium was suspended Saturday.

Hundreds of others waited in a line stretching across the cavernous Paris train station, as Eurostar staff circulated with trays

of pastries and coffee.
The shutdown affected 40,000 people and left French President Nicolas Sarkozy indignant. Eurostar offered its "deepest apologies," promised compensation and pledged to do its utmost to make sure passengers can celebrate the holidays with families.

People who were supposed to travel over the weekend were given priority as about two out of three regularly scheduled trains began running.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Search narrowed for Air France jet flight recorders

CRASH French investigators said yesterday they are optimistic about finding the black boxes of Air France Flight 447 when a third phase of the search begins in February. The plane crashed in the Atlantic last June en route from Rio to Paris, killing all 228 people aboard. Jean-Paul Troadec, chief of the French Accident Investigation Agency, said an international team of experts will reduce the search area for the black boxes to 2,500 square kilometres. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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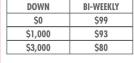
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Comment

Jim and the magic ministry

Flaherty stuck with maintaining financial recovery illusion



ou've got to feel sorry for Jim Flaherty, who's in charge of the Ministry of Magic these days.

Oops, sorry. That's the Finance Ministry. Although Flaherty probably wonders if Harry Potter would be better suited to the job.

Take the "recovery," instance.

If that's not magic, I don't know what is. Nothing has really happened since 2008, when we woke up with the mother of all hangovers, induced by a decade-long orgy of spending money we haven't got.

All at once, half the value we assumed was in our homes and businesses simply disappeared. We scurried under our beds and refused to come out. Until - even though nothing has changed. Nonetheless, magicians, er, economists now declare the recession over, thanks to Joe Consumer, back spending money he hasn't got.
I'm not making this up.

Less than a year after the world's leaders pumped all their spare cash into the banks to keep the economy afloat, we're watching TV commercials featuring Daddy buying Sugar a brand-new Lexus for Christmas, while the Envys look on. And Flaherty is stuck

with maintaining the illusion. He has to be careful. If he's too much like Dad ranting about credit card bills, he'll damage "consumer confidence" and we'll all crawl back under the bed, ending the "recovery."

The trance is not entire. The consumer confidence index is up

lim Flaherty

3.7 in December — we're confident in our short-term finances and employment status, but we're still cautious about the future. Still, we're 26.2 per cent more confident (deluded?) than we were at this time last

Ever the responsible magician, Flaherty is trying to manage the spell. The house of cards — a.k.a.

the economy becollapsed cause people defaulted on home mortthev gages couldn't af-



the first place. So if interest rates go up — and up they must go if we don't want runaway inflation (bad magic) - people who depend on cheap money will go down and the "recovery" will be over. Flaherty says he will make it tougher to walk into a mortgage: Requiring an actual cash down payment or limiting the term of the mortgage. What? No more 30-year mortgages at two per cent?

Predictably, some magi-cians worry Flaherty will put a damper on the economy, which, it appears, is fuelled 100 per cent by pixie dust. So, as you sit by the warmth of the fire this holiday season, bolstering your confidence with a bowl of punch, you might spare a moment of sympathy for Tiny Jim.

And it's a good time to count our blessings while we still can - we're OK at least until the visit of Christmas Yet to Come.

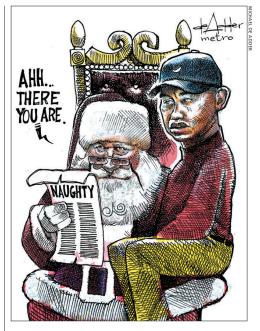
Paul Sullivan is a Vancouver-based journalist and owner of Sullivan Media Consulting; vancouverletters@metronews.ca.

Victoria

Pianarosa

A: Making agnolot-ti with my in-laws.

Bedford, N.S.



Online chatter

Asked on Twitter: What's your favourite holiday tra-

TORONTO

@bodsworth Unwrapping new pajamas every Christmas Eve, so come Christmorning we look fresh and clean for gift giv-

ing pics! @raine_angel family has a special advent tree decorated with special ornaments and a chain link. Every day we remove one

link! **CALGARY**

@jess4002 we love listening and singing along to christmas music all throughout december! even the terrible christmas songs.

EDMONTON

@lukesheds being passive aggressive toward rela-



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@M4TTW4RD ski-doing and skating with my entire family at long island lake on boxing day. :D **VANCOUVER**

@kirksettle definitely the

enormous family get-togethers that are almost unreason-

ably big, like three turkeys for 40 people every x-mas. @chatkiller

hmm ... It would have to be putting up the Christmas tree with my folks, along with putting up lights and ornaments.

@gayvancouver Our fave holiday tradition is our annual Santa photo. Two grown men on Santa's certainly livens things up in the mall!

Word on the street: What's your favourite holiday tradition?

Jimmy Larcombe Ottawa

A: Opening presents around the tree with the family.

Georgi **DiRocco** Ottawa

A: When all my members over the night before Christ-

Paul Greenman Gatineau

Pretty A: Eating. much anything potatoes, turkey, steak, gravy, sausage, my aunt's

Ashley Young Edmonton

A: My favourite tradition would Christmas baking Christmas and then on Christmas Day, the whole process process of gift opening and stock-

David Sadai Toronto

A: My girlfriend's parents still put "from Santa Claus" on the gifts ... and they're already un-der the tree.

It's a fun thing that everyone in the family participates in. We cut it up and make the filling we eat them all. It usually takes a



We Know What You're Thinking

The number of Canadians who have a plan on how to get home safely when going out to an activity where they might be drinking alcohol.

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WHAT YOU'RE THINKING

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Bank of Nova Scotia sets up in Dubai

The Bank of Nova Scotia said yesterday it has been approved to set up independent operations in Dubai's financial district, making it the first Canadian bank to do so. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Word judgment upheld

Jury found Microsoft application infringed on patent

A U.S. federal appeals court has upheld a \$290million US judgment against Microsoft Corp. in a patent case launched by Canada-based iqi Inc.

The ruling also includes an injunction, set to go into effect Jan. 11, that would prevent the sale of at least some versions of Microsoft's popular Word word processing software.

The decision was on an appeal Microsoft launched against a verdict returned by a Texas jury in favour of i4i

The jury found recent versions of Microsoft Word

"(The decision is) an important step in protecting the property rights of small inventors."

Michel Vulpe, i4i

infringed on a software patent.

Michel Vulpe, founder and co-inventor of i4i, said in a statement that the company is pleased with the decision, calling it "an important step in protecting the property rights of small inventors."

i4i chairman Loudon Owen called the decision a "vindication for i4i and a war cry for talented inventors whose patents are infringed."

"The same guts and integrity that are needed to invent and go against the herd, are at the heart of success in patent litigation against a behemoth like Microsoft," Owen said in a statement.

Kevin Kutz, Microsoft's director of public affairs, said the software company is "moving quickly to comply with the injunction."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NYSE Walking on the Dark Side



Star Wars icon Darth Vader is escorted by storm troopers while touring the floor of the New York Stock Exchange yesterday in New York. To celebrate the lasting appeal of the Star Wars saga, Lucasfilm Ltd. executives and the Star Wars characters visited the exchange and rang the opening bell.

Auto industry poised to turn

economy The beleaguered auto industry is poised for a slow but steady turnaround in 2010 that will usher in an era of profitability and job growth after years of declines, according to a new industry forecast.

The Conference Board of Canada said the auto sector isn't necessarily out of trouble but there are encouraging signs that profits will return in 2010 and strengthen each year through to at least 2014.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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A sales boom has shot China past the U.S. as the world's largest auto market, with plenty of potential customers still car-less. Scan this barcode for the full story.

Business in brief

EMPLOYMENT Statistics Canada says the number of people receiving regular Employment

Insurance benefits in October edged down 0.5 per cent to 809,600. That was still 61.8 per cent, or 309,300 more than drew benefits in October 2008. THE CANADIAN PRESS





Picket line rules at strikebound Vale Inco

A judge has imposed picket line rules, including a no more than 12minutes holdup of buses at strikebound Vale Inco in Sudbury, Ont. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Citigroup denies theft by hackers

The FBI is investigating a hacker attack on Citigroup Inc. that led to the theft of tens of millions of dollars, The Wall Street Journal re**ported yesterday.**Citing anonymous gov-

ernment officials, the Journal reported that the hackers were connected to a

Russian cyber gang.
Citigroup denied the report. "We had no breach of the system and there were no losses, no customer losses, no bank losses," said Joe Petro, managing director of Citigroup's Se"Ninety-eight per cent of bank heists are now occurring virtually and not in the real world."

Tom Kellermann. security expert

curity and Investigative

The Journal reported that the attack on Citi-group's Citibank subsidiary was detected over the summer, although it

may have occurred up to one year earlier. The FBI, National Security Agency, the Homeland Security Department and Citigroup worked together to investigate the attack.

Internet attacks banks are very common, said Tom Kellermann, a former senior member of the World Bank's Treasury security team.

"Ninety-eight per cent of bank heists are now occurring virtually and not in the real world," he said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. housing sales see huge jump

SALES U.S. home resales surged to the highest level in nearly three years, reflecting an extraordinary level of federal support that has pulled the housing market back from the worst downturn since the Great Depression.

The National Association

of Realtors says sales rose 7.4 per cent to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 6.54 million in November, from a downwardly revised pace of 6.09 million in October.

Sales were 44 per cent above last year's levels, a record jump.

They had been expected to rise to an annual pace of 6.25 million, according to economists surveyed by Thomson Reuters.

The median sales price was \$172,600, down 4.3 per cent from a year earli-

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS





Sports

Trio of Sens make team of the decade

Alfredsson, Ruutu, Neil picked by Hockey News

with the Senators.

way players.



t has been something of a bittersweet decade for the Ottawa Senators. On one hand, they've spent the first decade of the 21st century as one of the most talented and dynamic teams in the NHL. On the other hand, they have almost nothing to show for it.

One appearance in the Stanley Cup final and a string of playoff disappointments at the hands of the Toronto Maple Leafs have pretty much provided the defining moments of the past 10 years

and physical play you need from your But the Senators, at times, have been fourth-line players and, more imporvery good. And that's why here at tantly, they can both contribute sig-The Hockey News, we put three nificant minutes without being a Senators on our Team of the liability. Decade. In our Jan. 4 issue, we Only Donald Brashear has chose our team of the decade not by choosing the best 20 players, but by selectmore penalty minutes through the decade than Neil and his ability to move up the lineup ing the best team, meaning and play a more significant role constructed a makes him valuable. And roster of two scorthere has not been a much better shift dislines. checking line and an energy turber over the past few seasons than line with Ruutu, who also three sets of comes in handy during shootouts. defencemen and a starting Alfredsson, Ruutu and backup nd Neil may not be the best players in the NHL, but we'll goalie. Filling the right take them on our side on the team anytime ... at second line east for this decade. is Daniel Al-The Hockey News Daniel Alfredsson **Othn.com**

Premier has 'open mind' on UFC

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Sports updates on your smartphone Learn how to scan the barcode with the instructions at the top of pg 3

Fighting Championship

matches in the province. "I've got an open mind to those kinds of things," McGuinty told CTV Toronto earlier this week when asked if he's opposed to the martial arts events being staged here.

"I'd want to hear from people who train kids in

the martial arts, how popular is it such as boxing, wrestling, kickboxing, among the younger age group and all

Premier Dalton McGuinty is considering allowing the staging of Ultimate of thing I'd want to drive underground.

In other words, I'd want to bring a thoughtful approach to it."
McGuinty said he would

also want to consult with police and medical officials, adding the issue is not a priority for him. Ultimate fighting is a

mixed martial arts competition, combining elements of fighting sports

karate and jiu-jitsu. THE CANADIAN PRESS



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Visually impaired paralympian Brian McKeever, right, from Canmore, Alta., crosses the finish line yesterday to win the 50-kilometre event at the able-bodied Haywood NorAm and Olympic Trials in Canmore, McKeever is trying to qualify for the 2010 Olympic team.

On the verge of history

Visually impaired skier hopes to compete in Olympics

Visually impaired cross-country skier Brian McKeever is a step closer to becoming the first winter athlete to compete in both the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The 30-year-old from Canmore, Alta., won an able-bodied 50-kilometre NorAm race yesterday, a result he needed to be eligible for the Olympic

But the number of spots on Canada's Olympic roster hasn't been confirmed and it will be up to Cross Country Canada to decide if McKeever will race the 50K in Whistler in February.

"It's the best race I could lay down today and whatever happens, happens," McKeever said. "That's all you can ask, to have the best race on the day when it matters.'

He won in two hours 21 minutes 8.5 seconds. Brent McMurtry of Calgary

was second in 2:22:20.9 and Kevin Sandau of Calgary was third in 2:22:40 4

McKeever has won seven Paralympic medals, including four gold.

"The message is, you put your mind to it and you work really hard for it you can do anything," said McKeever. Five athletes have competed in both

Paralympics and Olympics and all have been summer-sport athletes.

McKeever said it would be a dream come true to become the first winter athlete to accomplish the feat.

McKeever has Stargardt's disease, an inherited condition of macular degeneration that also claimed his father's eyesight. His vision is less than 10 per cent and all of it is peripheral. He compares it to seeing the "doughnut, but not the Timbit.'

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Hundreds mourn Bengals' Henry at funeral

FOOTBALL Chris Henry's fiancée wept as she spoke about the late Cincinnati Bengals receiver yesterday, saying that while she often got credit for steering him clear of a trouble, he changed her life as well.

Henry, 26, was killed after he fell out of the bed of a pickup truck driven by his fiancée, Loleini Tonga, during what police called a domestic dispute. Police are investigating, but no charges have been filed.

Tonga, wearing large sunglasses, paused to gather herself repeatedly as she spoke to hundreds of mourners at his funeral — including Henry's teammates — who filled the grandstands of a suburban New Orleans events centre. Tonga professed eternal love for Henry and promised to raise their children the way he would want.

"Can't nobody know the way I'm feeling right now. No one can explain the relationship that me and Chris had. In six years of knowing each other — through hard times, good times we loved each other very much,' she said. "People say I helped change



NFL commissioner Roger Goodell hugs Cincinnati Bengals wide receiver Chad Ochocinco yesterday.

his life. No. He changed mine."

Mourners clapped briefly as Tonga slowly made her way back to her front

NFL commissioner Roger Goodell, Bengals players, coaches and members of the front office, as well as other NFL players including New Orleans Saints running back Reggie Bush, were among those who attendance.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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This Princess 6 V Quad car, \$119.99, includes a 6-volt battery and charger.

Suitable for ages 3 and up. At Canadian Tire, canadiantire.ca. METRO NEWS SERVICES

23

pping Guide

SPECIAL FEATURES EDITOR: STEPHANIE.BOMBA@METRONEWS.CA

Bathing beauties

Rocky Mountain Soap Company's Spicy Mandarin Christmas, \$21.50.

Includes Large Spicy Mandarin Body Butter, Spicy Mandarin Soap, and Spicy Mandarin Bath Salt. Available at stores across Canada, or at rockymountain soap.com.

Fruity Foaming Bath Collection, \$24 (6 x 40 mL), Comes in six colours and fragrances: Field Berries, Pear-Peony,

Grapefruit-Guava, Georgia Peach, Very Lemon and Orange Cantaloune Available at Fruits & Passion stores across Canada. For more, go to fruitspassion.com.

Christmas \$74.95 includes a Holiday Bubble Bar, Jingle Spells, and more. Call 1-866-644-5874 or visit lush.ca for



Winter White Fresh and Winter White Citrus body wash, \$16.50 each; and Winter White Fresh and Winter White Citrus splash, \$29.50 each. Available at Bath and **Body Works stores across** Canada. For more, go to bathandbodyworks.com





Jacky Frost, Gingerbread Woman and Snow Woman bath and shower bubbles, \$20 each. For more. go to cake beauty.com.



Season's Treatings by Bliss, \$45, ncludes body butter, hand cream and body wash. Available at Sephora. For more, call 1-877-737-4672.

MERRY CRANBERRY COLLECTION

Pamper her with cranberry treats from The Body Shop this holiday season. This bestselling holiday favourite collection includes bath and shower gel, soap, lip balm, body butter, frosted shimmer lotion, candles, home fragrance oil, and much more.

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Holiday Shopping Guide



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This Life Brand Platinum Duchess Pear Frizzante, \$3.29 for 1 L, can be served chilled with vodka and champagne or warmed and spiced with brandy. At Shoppers Drug Mart, shoppersdrugmart.ca METRO NEWS SERVICES



Did you forget to

do your holiday

shopping? Don't

have time to get

worry, you still

something for

everyone on

your list.

Holiday Shopping Guide

Advice for the procrastinator

BRIAN COULTON for Metro Canada

It's Dec. 24. You settle in front of the tube with a cider to watch It's A Wonderful Life for the umpteenth time, glance at the perfectly packaged gifts under the tree and suddenly get the feeling you're forgetting something.

Don't fear, present procrastinator!

Just remember these four tips to weather the last-minute holiday shopping hustle...

Prime for lines

Lineups amid your heeldragging brethren can encourage public fits of frus-tration due to the claustrophobic combination of chipper Christmas music, flashing lights and other latecomers inadvertently touching vou. So zen out bringing a rousing book (have you scoured Metro's holiday book picks yet?) or iPod to tune out the lot. Podcasts from programs like CBC's Definitely Not The Opera or NPR's This American Life will make you happy by making light of the human absurdity you're surrounded by.

Be thoughtfully thoughtless

Sure, gift cards aren't the most attentive festive offerings, but they're easy, often have no expiry date and save you from picking a present the recipient may completely hate, thereby ruining your relationship forever all because you waited so long to shop. Plus, it doesn't take much to personalize a plastic rectangle. Consider what the giftee likes (makeup? books? power tools?) and pick a shop with a suffocating selection of it. Buy a greeting card, write a schmaltzy message expressing your love, and seal with gift card inside



When all else fails, remember the two Fs...

Fragrances and full-refund! Perfume and cologne provide a perfect outlet to buy your way out of Christmas neglect. Go expensive: Black Orchid by Tom Ford or Stella by Stella McCartney for ladies; Tabarome by Creed or π (Pi Neo) by Givenchy for guys. If you buy a box set, crack it open and wrap items individually to mask your embarrassingly obvious inclination toward a deal. But whether buying eau de toilette or toiletries (don't gift toiletries), always ask for the store refund policy and/or obtain a gift receipt. This lets the recipient return your present and get what they really wanted in the first place.

... Unless the stores are closed

If you waited this long, you've really only got two options left: the Internet (thanks Al Gore) or cornerstore cigars and scratchand-wins. For some reason, not everybody appreciates the latter. Instead, use the series of tubes to find a gift you don't need to wait for in the mail. Magazine subscriptions, e-coupons for music and book downloads and getaway bookings are point-and-click buys don't even require wrapping. Simply pen a note proclaiming your thoughtfulness, emphasize how your gift is so superior the recipient must wait to get it, and watch the joy spread across his or

BABØR

her face on Christo mas morn-







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rolutions

Sephora. For

more, call

1-877-

737-

4672.

Where The Wild Things Are ornament, \$19.99 at Hallmark. For more, go to hallmark.ca. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Holiday Shopping Guide

Hey, good-looking

Davidoff Hot Water Eau de Toilette, \$65 for 60 mL and \$\$87 for 110 mL. Also comes in after-shave balm, \$49 for 100 mL, and de odorant, \$30 for 75 Available Carry-on Companions, at Sears \$29.75, includes travel-sizes and select DAVIDOFF of Aveda Men Puredrug Formance Shampoo and stores Aveda Men Pure-Formance across Grooming Clay. Available in Canada Aveda salons, spas and stores. For more call 1-800-689-1066.

Braun Series 7 Pulsonic shaver, \$279.99 \$339.99, features an LCD display screen Available in department and mass merchandise stores across

Canada.

C.O. Bigelow Barber Collection for Him includes

Elixir White Cologne, \$24.50; Elixir White

tra-Light Body Lo-

Available at Bath

bathandbody

works.com.

tion, \$13.

and Body

Works,

Hair & Body Wash, \$13; and Elixir White Ul-

David Beckham Signature Story



for Him, \$57 for 50 mL and \$69 for 75 mL. Available at drug and department stores across Canada.

Life Brand Revitalizing Shower Gel Set, \$6.99 at Shoppers Drug Mart. For more go to shoppersdrugmart.ca.

Drug Mart. For more, go to shoppersdrugmart.ca.



Sephora Viva Box Collector's Fragrance Sampler for Him, \$45. Includes Ralph Lauren Polo Black, Versace Pour Homme Eau de Toilette and Canali Eau de Toilette. At





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*Some exceptions may apply. Excludes jewellery and accessories.

The Penguin, caveman and other characters come to life in this Pictureka! 300-piece puzzle, \$7.99. Available at Walmart, Zellers and Toys R Us. METRO NEWS SERVICES



Holiday Shopping Guide

Home for the holidays

12 Days of Christmas votive set. \$29.99. These holiday berryscented candles are available at Indigo and Chapters stores across Canada



PC Caspian mugs, \$9.99 for four; and PC Caspian dessert **plates**, \$9.99 for four. All by PC Home. For more, go to su perstore.ca



Snowman appetizer plates, \$30 for a set of four. For more, go to pamperedchef.com or call 1-800-266-5562.





For more ao to home sense.



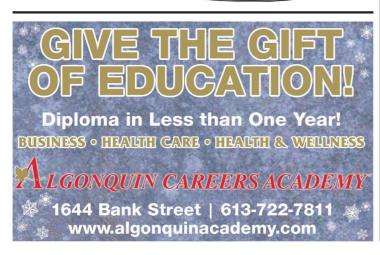
Merry Merry salad plates, \$10 each; Merry Merry appetizer plates, \$9 each; Merry Merry serving platter, \$32. All available at Pier

1 Imports. For more, go to pier1 .ca.













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Holiday Shopping Guide

5 ways to wrap gifts

Add this to your list of holiday rituals: The annual hunt through a closet for last year's gift wrap and ribbon.

Replacing your misplaced paper, boxes, tape, tissue, ribbon, bows and tags can be expensive if you buy everything. But presenting a beautifully wrapped present doesn't need to cost a lot. Or take a lot of time. Or even require extra crafting prowess.

extra crafting prowess.

"There are lots of cool ways to enhance the gift without needing to buy tons and tons of supplies that you pack away and forget you have," said MaryElise Cervelli, a giftwrap expert at Milwaukee's Broadway Paper.

kee's Broadway Paper.
Here are five easy ideas
for wrapping an elegant
gift and keeping your time
and wallet intact.

Paper: Instead of having different wrapping paper for babies, weddings, holidays and birthdays, opt for a roll of sturdy basic brown or white paper from your local art or office supply shop. There's enough on most rolls to last years, even for a prolific gift-giver. The paper can be decorated any number of ways and made seasonally appropriate with ribbons. Another option is plain white dish

towels or cloth napkins.

"There are so many things that are waiting around your house that can be used," said Jaimee Zanzinger, an executive editor at RealSimple.com.
"It's so easy for everyone to just go to the store and spend a lot of money on wrapping and decorations, but you don't really need to spend the money."

Don't overlook paper grocery bags or lunch bags, said Holly Becker, who runs the blog Decor8.

"Cut the seams, iron it on a low-heat setting and wrap your present with it, tying it with some pretty ribbon and a little gift tag," she said. She's even used lined notebook paper for small gifts.

Ribbon: Instead of a stick-on bow and plastic ribbon, use household basics like twine, baker's string or yarn, Cervelli said. Other things to try include hair ribbons, lace trim, other bric-a-brac, even an old skinny tie or a scarf.



Twine, baker's string or yarn can be used as ribbon on gifts.

For a fancier look, check out sales at craft or fabric stores and buy grosgrain ribbon. Cervelli's even cut wrapping paper and flipped it over, using the underside as a ribbon alternative. You could do the same with inexpensive fabric. For a child's gift, try a jump rope.

per isn't your thing, jazz it up. Becker recommends using rubber stamps to add flair to a package. Or make your own stamps out of potatoes or sponges. Tie on bits of nature — a holly sprig or fresh pine needles this time of year, dried or fresh flowers in summer.

If you have kids, put them to work finger painting or stamping the paper; even impressions from their own rubber stamps will look festive with the right colour ink. Or, reuse some of their old paintings and drawings.

Cut & tape: Zanzinger tries to repurpose old items when she's wrapping gifts and recommends snagging pages from old calendars (circle an important date, such as a birthday or Christmas, to give it a theme). Old maps or magazines also work great, as do newspapers.

Those options don't sing

Those options don't sing to you? Open your dictionary and turn to a favourite word. Photocopy the text and enlarge it onto whatever size paper you need.

Gift tags: Collect the Christmas cards you've received (or buy a box at a discount shop) and cut the fronts into inch-wide strips. Fold the strips in half and you have a tag. Another option is to use a playing card from an old deck or a board game that's already missing pieces.



"Having a relationship with your contact is advantageous, but it is important to remember that they have to justify their decisions to others as well and providing them with evidence that highlights the benefits of the relationship will further cement it." NEWS CANADA

metro 29

Workology

Are relationships enough?

According to Suzanne F. Stevens, founder of Ignite Excellence Inc. a Toronto-based training and development company, when it comes to winning business, a good relationship will foster open and honest communications. It is important to build the relationship, but it is even more critical to learn about the client's experiences and expectations to learn what makes them tick.

EDITOR: DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

Here even firings are polite

JON TATTRIE

In the new movie Up In The Air, George Clooney plays a flying executioner patrolling the skies above America's unravelling economy, touching down only to drop the ax on the luckless casualties of the crisis.

Gary Agnew is Canada's answer to Clooney's American horseman of the economic apocalypse, but the veteran of the downsizing industry says such brutishness would never fly in Canada. Where U.S. firms may hire hitmen like Clooney to pull the trigger, Canadian bosses find the courage to do it themselves — with help.

selves — with help.

"The movie has got a U.S. slant to it and is an exaggerated portrait," says Agnew, a partner at the Calgary-based human-resources company Cenera. "We don't go in and fire people. We train managers in how to do it humanely."

After the layoffs, Cenera helps former staff regroup. "I've been doing "We don't go in and fire people. We train managers in how to do it humanely."

Cenera's Gary Agnew

this for 30 years. Let me tell you: 95 per cent of the people I have worked with have gone to positions that are far better than the positions they were in," Agnew says.

That's what gives him his cheery disposition: He loves helping people turn a career crisis into a career-advancing piv-

ot. But it's not easy. "I think most of my colleagues carry a fairly heavy bag full of emotions because we feel the pain people have been through," he admits.

Genevieve Belben heads up DBM's Atlantic Region and has overseen countless downsizing operations. Local branches of the global career management company handle



Laying someone off is never easy, but there are people and companies out there that make it easier.

small-scale layoffs, but Belben flies in when an East Coast company is closing, meaning she doesn't quite share the itinerant life of Clooney's character.

Like Agnew, she rarely

participates in the actual terminations. "We're the future focus. We don't want to be tied to the bad news," she says from her Halifax office. "We're retained by a corporation ... but we work for the em

ployee."

But no matter how many times she's been through it, D-day is always a bad day. But still, "change is not a bad thing — change spells opportunity," she says.

The more eye contact, the better

BUSINESS Eye contact is a powerful tool that is often underestimated. Used effectively, it signals to people that they are important and that you are interested in communicating specifically with them.

Suzanne F. Stevens, keynote speaker and founder of Ignite Excellence Inc., a Torontobased training and development company specializing in influential verbal and kinetic communications says,

"Lack of eye contact may be a social faux pas, but in the business world, it translates into lost revenue from alienated clients, isolated employees, and lost job opportunities."

If you are applying for a job, leading your team, or trying to win business, knowing how to give your energy through appropriate eye contact can mean the difference between a positive, lasting impression or a lost opportunity.

More information on this topic is available online at igniteexcellence.com

NEWS CANADA

Shop, and hire, until you drop

MAT LECOMPTE for Metro Canada

BUSY, BUSY, BUSY The holidays are right around the corner, and along with the reunions, good times and parties, it means one more thing; something that can be best summedup in the first five words of a classic 1973 O'Jays tune: For the love of Money.

Last year a Scotiabank survey estimated that Canadians would spend an average of \$790 on various holiday expenses

ous holiday expenses. A lot of that cash will be spent in big-box retailers like Future Shop and Best Buy — who are/will be making a combined total of 8,000 hires for the holiday season, stretching from now until the new year. Hires will be offered the same wage as existing

employees and also receive full employee discounts for their term — helping to ease the financial burden of the season.

Chris Taylor, head of human resources for Future Shop, says the stores are looking to increase their in-store staff by 40-50 per cent for the month of December. Hires will vary by market and store, so he says interested individuals should inquire at the loca-

tions nearest to them.

Taylor, along with Danielle Jang of Best Buy, is anticipating a successful season even though the economy has been in a slump. With great deals on a wide variety of items, they expect the seasonal hires to be quite busy throughout the season. This is especially good for Future Shop sales associates who are able to earn commission.



Big-box stores will be busy even after the Christmas rush.



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Best biz book gifts for the holidays

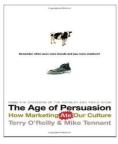
Book**Review**

The December holidays are upon us. For many of you that means time off and a smidge of free time to catch up on some reading. I have a number of books I'm looking forward to digging into over the holidays which I will be reviewing over the next several weeks. I'm pleased to say that of the five I've listed four are Canadian authors (three of which who are currently heavily touring and promoting their books nationally).

Age of Persuasion: **How Marketing Ate Our Culture**

By: Terry O'Reilly & Mike Tennant

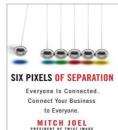
Many CBC listeners will recognize Terry O'Reilly's name due to his similarly titled program the Age of Persuasion or O'Reilly on Advertising. O'Reilly and Tennant tell a vivid and addictive story of the world of marketing often giving the historical context of



their tales. If this book is anything like the radio show, it will be a sure crowd pleaser. It probably also doesn't hurt that O'Reilly has been inducted into the Marketing Hall of Legends, standing in rank alongside heavyweight Jim Balsillie of RIM.

Six Pixels of Separation: **Everyone is** Connected

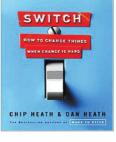
By: Mitch Joel Like O'Reilly, Mitch Joel is another marketer cum author. As the president of a successful interactive marketing firm, book plans to debunk the old adage of "six degrees of



separation" and argues that with tools like Facebook the world is even smaller. In fact Joel mentions that if Facebook were a country it would be the sixth largest in the world. Joel is a popular attraction on the speakers circuit and a quick whip on the topics of interactive marketing, social media, personal branding and entrepreneurship.

Switch

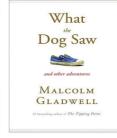
By: Dan and Chip Heath The lone Americans in my list brotherly duo Chip and Dan Heath are no strangers to publishing Their wildly sucworld.



cessful book Made to Stick offered a glimpse into the structure of marketing tales or urban legends, and what makes them so memorable. In this book, the Heaths examine the concept of changing strategy when one is already successful. Some people just have a growth mindset. Its hard not to get engrossed ina book that looks closely at human behaviour and what it takes to overcome our comfort zone.

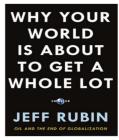
What the **Dog Saw**

By: Malcolm Gladwell Gladwell has become one of Canada's most prolific and successful non



fiction authors with Tipping Point, Blink, Outliers and ultimately his latest addition — What the Dog Saw. Though he was born in England, he grew up in rural Ontario and graduated at the University of Toronto with a history degree. If you are too busy to get through a full book on this list, I'd suggest this one. It is comprised of a collection of 19 essays all heavily researched and beautifully written. Perfect for the jetsetter constantly on a commuter plane or train.

Why Your World is About to get a Whole lot Smaller



By: Jeff Rubin Jeff Rubin's name may not be on your radar, but for those who work in the financial sector he is somewhat legendary. Sitting at the Helm at CIBC World Markets as chief economist for over 20 years, Rubin's predictions were often so unimaginable that they often drew fire. His predictions, however, were on the mark, be it the 1989 crash of Toronto's real estate market, oil hitting \$50 then \$100 (with the accurate timelines by the way).

Craig Lund, a director with the staffing firm Marketers on Demand, can be reached at craig.lund@marketersondemand.com

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Some life-long learning tips

a resolution for life-long learning with these literacy

Take a course or upgrade your skills this year. People with higher literacy skills earn more income. are less likely to be unemployed and are more likely to find full-time work. To find help with reading, writing and math, look under LEARN in your local Yellow Pages directory or on-

line at yellowpages.ca Exercise your mind. Played Sudoku lately? Crossword puzzles, word jumbles and games like Scrabble are good for the grev matter.

• Watch out for "reading slumps." Is your child entering kindergarten, Grade 4, or high school this year? Parents should pay careful attention to these potentially vulnerable times when a sudden disinterest in reading could hinder literacy development.

· Read aloud together, no matter how old you are. Reading ability is like a muscle — if you don't exercise it often, you may not be able to maintain the same level of reading ability as you age. Encourage all family members to read and discuss items from newspapers and websites to keep up-to-date on what is

happening around the world.

• Write on. Keep a jourto express vour thoughts and help polish your writing skills. Send a handwritten letter or thank you note to a friend, family member or co-worker.

• Give the gift of words. Need inspiration for birthday, wedding or anniver-sary gifts this year? Why not give magazine subscriptions, or make a donation to a literacy organization in your community?

• Be a mentor. Offer to proofread homework or verify math answers after your child has done the **NEWS CANADA**



workology 31

Don't fret, your presentation will suffer if you do

ADVICE Many people have a deep-rooted fear of giving presentations. These feelings of fear are well-founded if not much is known about the audience. Ouestions such as: "How will they react to my recommendation?" and "Is the presentation too long?' soon arise.

Suzanne F. Stevens, keynote speaker and founder of Ignite Excellence Inc., a Torontobased training and development company specializing in influential verbal and kinetic communications, explains: "The more you know about the audience, the less cause for concern you will have come presentation time." She advises you to talk to people beforehand to find out information such as:

- What issues are specific individuals dragging in with them?
- Which issues do you avoid?
- Which issues do you highlight?

Comprehensive audience analysis guides you in structuring and delivering your presentation to suit the interests and motivators of the different individuals within the audience. Otherwise, you are playing "hit-or-miss" with a canned presentation."

Every decision you make in preparation for your presentation starts with audience analysis.



Think twice, or at least know your rights, before signing your name.

Employees' first mistake? Contracts

Workplace**Law Daniel** Lublin Metronews.ca/workplacela

mployees are often the author of their misfortune. Despite my cauwritings, tionary they routinely sign conreplete with unfavourable terms. By doing so, they unknowingly agree to be eliminated with minimum notice, demoted, or banished to far away jurisdictions, see their salary slashed and prevented from competing with their employer following their departure — all with legal impunity. Just as often, how-ever, Canadian courts are reluctant to enforce these agreements for a variety of reasons. Here are some examples of situations in which a signed contract will be set aside.

When market-research firm Advanis Inc. terminated Paul Dwyer, it sought to rely on an employment con-tract Dwyer first signed when he started work. The contract stated that "should it be determined there is not a fit between your skills and the requirements of

"Don't be reluctant to ... have any contract reviewed by a lawyer before signing."

your job, your employment will be terminated and you will receive severance determined by the employment standards act.' Dwyer recently challenged this language, arguing that he was entitled to substantially more than what the contract provided, the court noted that since the contract only confirmed that Dwver would receive what he was already entitled to, instead of limiting him only to those amounts, it could not be upheld.

Once an employee begins work, it is often too late to have him or her sign an agreement, even if on the first day. After a series of interviews, the CIBC extended Trusty Francis an offer of employment. However, on his first day at work he was presented with a number of forms and agreements that attempted to limit his entitlement to three months' salary if he was fired. At trial, the court found that Francis's employment contract was consummated when he agreed to the first offer of employment and, because nothing of new value was given to him when

he showed up at work, the forms and agreements he was told to sign were unenforceable. Otherwise, the court reasoned, an employer could unilaterally impose new terms of employment at any time and an employee would be without leverage to negotiate.

In another recent case, the employee was able to successfully establish that he had agreed to an oral offer of employment over the telephone and that by resigning from his current job in reliance on that offer, the contract he was later given could not be enforced. Here, the court noted that because the employee had "no other choice" but to sign the agreement, it would not be appropriate to hold him to its terms.

I have prevailed in court by raising the inference that a contract was signed without proper consent. Don't be reluctant to negotiate terms and have any contract reviewed by a lawyer before signing your name.

Daniel A. Lublin is an employment lawyer with Whitten & Lublin LLP. Reach him at dan@canadaemploymentlawyer.com





Warning issued for child seat car carriers

A product advisory notice has been issued in Canada for certain Dorel infant car seats, which may pose a potential safety hazard due to a handle that may loosen and come off when the seat is used as an infant carrier. CANADIANDRIVER.COM

Metro Drive



Saab sale fails

Saab Automobile AB will be closed down, following an announcement by General Motors that its sale to Spyker Cars could not be completed.

CANADIANDRIVER COM

The 2011 Nissan Leaf needs

infrastructure to develop in

owners actually have places to

recharge their vehicles, other

some Canadian cities, so

than at their homes.

Nissan Leaf fun, agile ride

MICHAEL GOETZ

You only have one chance to make a first impression.

Show up for a job interview, for a coveted position in the poultry industry, with untrimmed nose hair and a "Meat is Murder" tshirt, and well, your goose will be cooked, so to speak.

The ramifications of an unsatisfactory first impression weren't lost on the brain trust at Nissan

That first drive, that first ownership experience with all-electric Nissan Leaf, has to be completely satisfactory, or the chances of moving electric vehicles to the mainstream will be stopped in its tracks, says Ian Forsythe, a product specialist at Nissan Cana-

So we have an all-electric vehicle that aims to look and drive pretty close to how consumers would exa five-passenger, front-drive family sedan to

2010 **Nissan Leaf**

Type: 5-door hatchback Powertrain: 80 kilowatt AC electric motor laminated lithium-ion battery pack (the equivalent of about 106 hp and 207 lb-ft of torque) Charging times: About 8 hours on 220-volt current Range: 160 km per full charge Top Speed: Over 140 km/h

Highlights

- Zero Emissions
- Not available until late 2011
- · Vancouver gets first Canadian units

look and drive (with one major exception, which we'll get to shortly).

I had a chance to check if Nissan managed objective, via a brief fling in a Leaf proto

energy to electricity. The Leaf coasts more like a conventional car.

a park-

ing lot in

predictable and safe.

aggressive

It's even hard to detect

its regenerative braking

system. Other electric vehi-

cles and hybrids have more

systems, which means they essentially "brake"

the vehicle anytime you're off the "gas," to convert

every little bit of kinetic

regenerative

Vancouver. Yes, a pylon course. I took two laps, for The prototype we drove had Versa bodywork over a combined seat time of about one minute and 37 its Leaf electric platform. A seconds. Not quite like a full-blown Leaf was availlap around the famed Nur-burgring, but enough to able for viewing, and you can see that, while it is difconfirm that Leaf is fun to ferent, it's not scary differdrive and will not unnerve ent. It doesn't need a front anybody. It handles very much like every other front-drive sedan — agile, radiator grille or a tailpipe, so it has neither. The plugin "socket" is behind a flap but with just the right on its front hood, which is amount of dialed-in undershort and low for aerodysteer to make the vehicle namic purposes.

The one electric motor is fitted up front, but very low in the body, as are the batteries. Other EVs and hybrids use cylinder-shaped batteries, but the lithium-ion battery pack in the Leaf is formed in thin, laminated sheets This keeps the batteries cool, which is so necessary for



the 2011 Nissan Leaf. positioned short and low. Right, the interior of the car.

longevity and reliability.

But back to our parking lot run... The one defining characteristic of all electric vehicles is "instantaneous" torque. Depress the "gas" pedal, or whatever you want to call it, and the Leaf shoots forward like it was suddenly hitched to a moving transport truck. And

Nissan even dialed a bit off the experience, to make it less surprising, and more like something we're used

So maybe you want one? Well you can't have one. At least not until the early fall of 2011

Why the wait? It's back to that first impression thing. Nissan and other EV makers need infrastructure to develop in some Canadian cities, so owners actually have places to recharge their vehicles, other than at their homes. Any other way, and EVs will blow their first, good shot at stardom and it's back to dinner theatre.

Above, the plug-in outlet for

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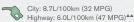
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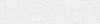
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Just in time for the 2010 Winter Olympic Games, Zagat has released an updated guide to Vancouver, with recommendations for restaurants and attractions in the city as well as for the ski resort town of Whistler and for beautiful Vancouver Island. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Travel



Going to hellholes in a hand basket

Author Chuck Thompson sets out to discover if some of the world's most ill-reputed travel destinations live up to their bad raps. Whether he's diving head long into an Indian monsoon or traveling across the Congo in the company of a notorious dictator's bodyguard, To Hellholes and Back delivers Thompson's trademark combination of hilarious stories and wildly provocative opinions, as well as some surprising observations about America's evolving place in the world.

Getting peace of mind

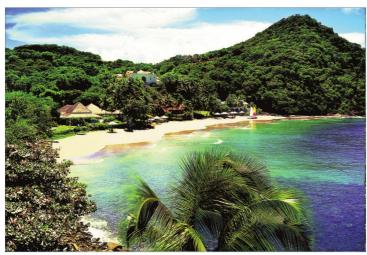
Le Sport resort promises to inspire and rejuvenate its patrons

The tag line reads: "Give us your body for a week, and we will give you back your mind." But what I'm wondering as I arrive for my two-night stay and am welcomed by a boisterous chorus of crickets is if I'm here for just two days, do they give me back a piece of my mind?

Located on the extreme northern side of the island of St. Lucia about a 20minute drive from the capital of Castries, and about an hour away from the famous Piton volcanic peaks, Le Sport opened in the mid-'80s with health and wellness front and centre. Back then the concept of taking a holiday to launch a healthier lifestyle had not yet gone main stream.

Clearly, the all-inclusive Le Sport was a resort ahead of its time.

In addition to the expected beach resort activities — kayaking, sailing, scuba, for instance — are those that keep many guests returning for an annual retreat. Daily back-to-



The secluded resort offers various levels of yoga, meditation and stretching classes.

back activities begin as early as 7 a.m. with a bicycle tour to nearby Pigeon Island or a guided hike, perhaps up to Mount Du Cap for a bird's eye view of the beach. There are various levels of yoga, meditation, spinning and stretching classes, Tai Chi, introductions to fencing and martial arts ... the list goes on

and on and on.

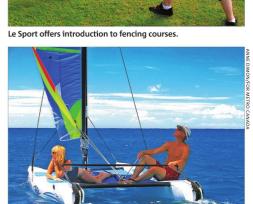
Guests are invited to do as much or as little as they want. Nothing is forced but there are a few not so subtle encouragements here and there. For instance, there are no TV sets in any of the resort's 154 guest rooms. want guests out of their rooms enjoying the many

therapists who work at Le Sport. They feature wellness practitioners brought in from different parts of the globe including those that specialize in Reiki, Balinese therapies, Ayurveda, acupuncture, nutrition/iridology and hypno and psycho therapies

activities and getting in touch with self and (if travelling as a couple) their partner," says brand man-

ager Judy Deterville.

There are also "eating healthy" reminders on the menus and select dishes are starred for things such as low fat and low sodium. While each of the four restaurants offers healthy choices, the selections are mixed in with holiday choices. So, if you want a burger and fries after a long lazy day of lounging under a beach umbrella no one's there to lay a guilt trip. The heart of The Body Holiday at Le Sport is The Oasis. I'd say it's one of the largest and most comprehensive spas in the Caribbean, but health and wellness leader, Matthew Powell says they don't like



Watersports, such as kayaking and sailing, are popular choices.

to use the term spa. "We're so much more than that," he says. "Wellness Centre is more accurate."

In addition to the wide range of programs, one of the main points of distinction of this beachfront allinclusive is that spa treatments

are included. Guests are entitled to Wellness one spa treatment a retreat day as part of the package. There are treat-

ments to select from including 50-minute scrubs, facials and massages -- like the full-body one I tired at the skilled hands of Heidi; one of about 45 therapists who work here. Spa manager Dr. Abhishek (a doctor of Ayurveda, yoga and naturopathy) says about half a dozen staff members are

wellness brought in from different parts of the globe including those that specialize in Reiki, Balinese therapies, Ayurveda, acupuncture, nutrition/iridology and hypno and psycho therapies. In addition to

Going to the Games?

spa treatments and wellness thera-Health and pies there are also customized programs such as smoking cessation, sleeping restoration and cellulite The Dr. stresses this is not a restrictive place — no boot camp philosophy — but a place to make subtle but significant changes that can be taken home and implemented into everyday life.

Anne Dimon is a spa and wellness travel writer and editor of traveltowellness.com

Peace of mind is an added



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Travel in brief

FLU More than half of adult travellers say they are taking more precautions against flu this year compared to last year. according to a poll conducted

by Harvard. Eighty-one per cent of adults who travelled by plane, bus, train or cruise ship in the past year said they will sneeze into their elbow rather

than their hands on their next trip, compared to 64 per cent who said they took this precaution on the last trip.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Embrace Canada's cold-weather sport

Dog-sled race organizers looking to bring out big crowds for longest race

Most people think hockey when it comes to winter spectator sports — not a 520-km trek through northern Saskatchewan.

But organizers with the Canadian Challenge are hoping cold-loving Canadians will consider sitting out in the wilderness, instead of at the rink, to watch some of the fastest sled dogs whiz by in a bid to win the country's longest dog derby.

longest dog derby.

"It's a spectator sport with a difference," says Gill Gracie, president of the Canadian Challenge sled dog race.

"You have to be willing to stay up late because it runs 24 hours. We're trying to encourage people actually this year to follow the dogs along."

The Canadian Challenge is actually four sled dog races that start Feb. 10 in Prince Albert, Sask.

Gracie says they put snow on Central Ave. in Prince Albert for the ceremonial start and the dog teams take off across the North Saskatchewan River.



Organizers with the Canadian Challenge are hoping cold-loving Canadians will consider sitting out in the wilderness, instead of at the rink, to watch some of the fastest sled dogs whiz by in a bid to win the country's longest dog derby

heading north. A team leaves every two minutes.

The flagship race is the 12-dog race. Over the course of four days, it runs roughly 520 km from Prince Albert up to La Ronge, north to a little place called Grandmother's Bay and over to Stan-

ley Mission before heading back to La Ronge where the finish line is located.

The race started in 1998 when some mushers in Prince Albert wanted to promote the support of sled dog racing.

It's grown to become the

It's grown to become the longest sled dog race that

starts, runs and finishes in Canada. It's also a qualifying race for the Iditarod and the Yukon Quest.

The race follows a route similar to that of the old sled dog trail used for years by trappers, the North West Mounted Police and First Nations community



One dogs gets a little excited.

If you go...

• The race starts Feb. 10 at noon in Prince Albert and ends the morning of Feb. 14 in La Ronge. canadiancha llenge.com

to travel between Prince Albert and La Ronge.

Most people don't get up to the north but there's a lot to do, says Gracie, who lives in La Ronge. There's snowmobiling, ice fishing and "awesome" cross-country skiing, she says.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Travel in brie

TOP 10 IN 2010 If you're looking for inspiration for a trip in the new year, Lonely Planet's Best in Travel 2010 offers trends, destinations and experiences around the world. Top 10 cities for next year, according to Lonely Planet, are Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates; Charleston, S.C.; Cork, Ireland; Cuenca, Ecuador; Istanbul, Turkey; Kyoto, Japan; Lecce, Italy; Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina; Singapore and Vancouver.

RESORT RE-OPENS A popular luxury Florida Keys resort has reopened almost a year after its primary building was ravaged by a New Year's Eve fire. Guests began checking into the 11-hectare Cheeca Lodge Resort&Spa this month as workers completed finishing touches on a new main lodge.

SKIING Sleeping Giant Ski Area in northern Wyoming is opening to skiers for the first time since 2004. The ski area's operators originally had hoped to open as early as Thanksgiving weekend, but their plans were foiled by insufficient snow. Sleeping Giant Ski Area calls itself one of America's oldest ski areas, having originally opened in the late 1930s.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Just another perk at your Caribbean resort?

One bite from an infected mosquito can put you at risk for malaria, even at a 5-star resort. Malaria is a serious disease that can lead to prolonged illness, or even death. You can help protect yourself by avoiding mosquito bites and taking medication to prevent malaria.

Come back with memories... not malaria. Before you travel, talk to a doctor.

Alaina Reed Hall, who portrayed Olivia Robinson on Sesame Street for 12 years, has died. Reed Hall was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2007 and succumbed Thursday at a Santa Monica, Calif., hospital, her husband, Tamim Amini, told the Los Angeles Times. TVGUIDE.COM

Setting records **Entertainment** 16,196 fans during the third of fiv sold-out concerts at the venue

Trends that defined the decade

iPods, tattoos and reality TV were among the things that changed our lives

Was it only a decade ago that a blackberry was a mere summer fruit? That green was, well, a colour, and reality TV was that one show sandwiched between music videos on MTV?

There were, of course, huge political and social upheavals that roiled our world in the past decade. But there were also the gradual lifestyle changes that you don't always notice kind of like watching a child grow older. Here's a look at some things that changed our lives:

APPS: There's an app for that! The phrase comes from Apple iPhone advertising, but could apply to the entire decade's gadget explosion, from laptops to GPS systems.

BLOG: I blog, you blog, he blogs ... How did we spend our time before blogging? There are more than 100 million of these web logs out there in cyberspace.

BLACKBERRIES: Considered essential by corporate CEOs and moms planning playdates. Introduced in 2002, the smartphone version is now used by more than 28 million people, according to its Waterloo, Ont.-based maker, Research In Motion Ltd.

CONNECTIVITY: As in, we're all expected to be connected, wirelessly, all the time. Boss emails you on a Sunday? Better answer, unless you're off in Antarctica - you have no excuse.





The iPod, left, the Blackberry, centre, and Twitter (co-founder Evan Williams, right) defined the decade.

COUGARS: A new TV series called Cougar Town focuses on a phenomenon that gained its name this decade: women dating younger men.

CROCS: Those ubiqui-

ET Canada

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a), Tom Arnold Premiere.

Newlywed Newlywed
The Simpsons South Park
The Office The Office
Property Virgin Unsellable

Shaun of the Dead *** (2004, Co

A Christmas Carol (2000, Fantasy

Whateve

tous plastic clogs debuted in 2002 and became the shoes you loved to hate. Kids love 'em, but there are web groups dedicated

to their destruction.

FACEBOOK: Can you be-

lieve this social networking site was once limited only to Harvard students? Now it's a time-sucking obsession for more than 300 million users globally.

FOODIE: It's not just that

guy in the White House who liked arugula — this was the decade of the foodie, when we all developed gourmet palates. Even a burgers went gourmet.

GOOGLE: This was the decade that Google became a part of our brain function. You know that guy who was in that movie when was it? Just Google it.

IPODS: An icon of the digital age, it's hard to believe this portable media player was first launched in 2001. Six years later the 100 millionth iPod was sold.

REALITY TV: As a nation. we became addicted to reality TV, from the feuding Gosselins of Jon&Kate Plus 8 to American Idol to Project Runway. At decade's end, the Heenes of Balloon Boy fame and the Salahis of gatecrashing fame give reality TV some unwanted attention.

TATTOOS: It started innocently enough — maybe a butterfly on the shoulder or a tribal symbol on the bicep. A few characters from the Chinese alphabet later it seemed any hipster who really meant it had a full sleeve of tattoos. trend extended to middleaged moms and even tween idol Miley Cyrus.

TEXTING: R u still rding this sty? Hope u r. This is the decade we start com-municating in the shorthand of text messages. Get used to it: Email is so '00s.

TWITTER: The new social network introduced tweets, retweets, follows and trending topics long as it fit in 140 charac-

WII: In a sea of video games, this simple console became the decade's breakout hit by appealing to the non-gaming masses. Wiis became a centre of family gaming, home fitness and even senior so-

cializing.
WIKIPEDIA: A boon to lazy students everywhere, the open-source encyclopedia used the masses to police its entries and keep them accurate.

YOUTUBE: The video-sharing site was born in 2005. Political candidates in 2008 even had their on channels.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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W	620 523			Bravo!Videos	Johnny Cash Chi		Wingfield	Star Portraits	White Collar (Par	rt 1 of 2)	Law & Order
	520 505			N)	Mighty Ships		Peak to Peak: Go	ndola	Mayday		Daily Planet

Law & Order: SVU

Star Trek: Voyager Jersey Shore The Outer Limits

Life After People
Ben et Jarrod (HDTV)

Keeping Up

269 350 70 APTN Investigates Winterlude 2009
621 527 71 TLK Look-A-Like TMZ

King

 600
 564
 49
 H&G
 House Hunters
 Property Vi

 627
 528
 50
 SPC
 Stargate Atlantis (DVS)

 581
 566
 53
 MTV
 MTV Cribs
 Teen Cribs

522 506 55 HIS Ice Pilots NWT (N)

129 773 60 CD Ben et Jarrod (HDTV)

261 394 61 V Murder, She Wrote

Mighty Ships Moonlight and Mistletoe (2008, Dra

Nearly Dead Nearly Dead Corner Gas 22 Minutes

Italian Escape Italian Escape

Intervention

Wait for Goo

critics'corner—

Peak to Peak: Building the Vorld's Biggest Gondola Acrophobics need not apply. his new special chronicles the construction of the world's longest and highest ski lift between British Columbia's Whistler and Blackcomb mountains. If you think the 4.4-km ride across a vindy valley sounds exhilaratng, wait until you see what it as like to build it — fighting Father Time and Mother Nature all the way, 9 PM on 42 DIS



Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas

Daily Planet Christmas

ET Canada

Daily Show

MTV Live

King

Holmes-Homes

Warriors-Terra

Outlaw Bikers

On. Mountain

In Laws In Laws
RENO 911! (N) RENO 911! (N)

House Hunters House Hunters

Tabernacle

tional Aboriginal Achievement Awards
Oz Show (HDTV) TMZ

edy) Simon Pegg. Real World-Road Rules

Family Guy King
Ice Pilots NWT (HDTV)

The Dr. Oz Show (HDTV)

Italian Escape Italian Escape Italian Escape Italian Escape Jamie Cooks

Since its first airing in 1966, this adaptation of the Dr. Seuss children's book has evolved into an annual holiday yiewing tradition. Legendary animator Chuck Jones directed the story about a green-skinned grouch who sets out to spoil Christmas for the citizens of Whoville. Boris Karloff provides narration, with additional voices by Thurl Ravenscroft and June Foray. 8 PM on 20 ABC





Chipmunks: The Squeakquel

Director: Betty Thomas Stars: Zachary Levi Classification: G Rating: #1/2

STEVE GOW for Metro Canada

REVIEW When Alvin and the Chipmunks took in over \$350 million US at the global box office in 2007, the long-time radio gim-mick-turned-Saturday

morning cartoon-turned big screen blockbuster was pretty much guaranteed a sequel.

Instead, we got The Squeakquel. And if you find that kind of nauseatingly cute wordplay annoying, wait until you sit through the soulless money-grab that Squeakquel.

Picking up pretty much where the first movie left off, The Squeakquel sees

On the web

• For an Alvin & The Chipmunks: The Squeakquel trailer, photos and screen times - or to buy tickets visit metronews.ca/movies

computer-animated pop-star rodents's adopted guardian (Jason Lee) quick-ly hospitalized after an onstage accident.

This leaves the Chipmunks in the incapable hands of cousin Toby (Zachary Levi of TV's Chuck), an expendable videogame-obsessed character with all the charm and intellect of a boiled po-

Sent back to school, the Chipmunks soon face an assortment of stereotypical circumstances (bullying, cliques, etc). But most noteworthy is the introduction of the Chipettes a triad of female chipmunks that share their counterparts' talent for

singing high-pitched pop

I suppose they're intended to be adorable but there's something slightly troubling about seeing scantily-clad cartoon characters mimic the booty-shaking moves of Beyoncé's Single Ladies. What's next for tod-





Alvin & The Chipmunks: The Squeakquel picks up where the original movie left off.

gimmick of a

group

gophers crooning contemporary hits in an irritating high-pitch may initially excite a few pre-pubescents but parents be warned — as you search your purse for earplugs, even the little one may disappear out of sheer restlessness and boredom.

Police give **Wood assault** warning

PEOPLE A spokesman for Rolling Stones guitarist Ronnie Wood says he has been given a for-



warning for assault.

David Rigg said police gave Wood the formal warning or caution yesterday after he was arrested earlier this month for assault near his home in Esher in southern England.

Wood divorced last month. His marriage collapsed after he started dating a young Russian woman. A caution is a formal warning given by police. It is not a criminal conviction but police will keep a record of it for five years. Wood said in a statement that he is "greatly relieved this matter is resolved.

When asked about Wood, Surrey Police said that a 62-year-old man had been cautioned over a domestic incident.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Chipmunks screen times

- Coliseum Ottawa: Wed 12:30-3-5:20-7:40-10:10 Thu 12:30-3-5:20-7:40
- Rideau Centre Cinemas: Wed 1:20-3:40-7-9 Thu 12:10-2:15-4:20
- South Keys: Wed 10:10-12:25-2:35-4:55-7:05-9:30 Thu 10:10-12:25-2:35-4:55-7:05
- Cinéma des Galeries d'Aylmer: Wed 1:10-3:20-7:10-9:20 Thu 1:10-3:20
- Gatineau 9: Wed 12:20-2:30-4:30-7:20-9:25 12:20-2:30-4:30
- StarCité Hull: Wed 12:05-2:15-4:25-7:05-9:20 Thu 12:05-2:15-4:25-7:05
- Barrhaven Cinemas: Wed 12:40-4-7:20-10 Thu 12:40-4-
- Gloucester SilverCity: Wed-Thu 12:25-2:45-5-7:15-9:30
- Kanata 24: Wed 11:15-12:15-1:45-2:45-4:15-5-7-7:30-9:25-9:55 Thu 11:15-12:15-1:45-2:45-4:15-5-6:45-7:15
- Complete listings are also available at metronews.ca/

Quaid, wife plead not guilty

actor Randy Quaid and his wife Evi have pleaded not guilty to felony charges of defrauding an innkeeper.

The couple appeared yesterday in a Santa Barbara courtroom. Deputy District Attorney Lee Carter says they were released on \$20,000 bail apiece. The sum had initially been forfeited when the pair failed to appear for a hearing.
They were taken into

custody after a previous arrest there on Sept. 24. They are accused of using an invalid credit card to defraud San Ysidro Ranch in Montecito of more than \$10,000. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Entertainment in brief

TV HBO says Ricky Gervais will be a star voice in a 13-episode animated comedy series early next year. The cable network said yesterday that The Ricky Gervais Show will be based on his wildly popular podcasts. Voices will include Gervais. longtime collaborator Stephen Merchant and their friend Karl Pilkington. Pilkington's musings often inspire the series' offbeat storylines.

BROADWAY Megan Mullally will return to Broadway in the Roundabout Theatre Company revival of Lips Together, Teeth Apart, Terrence McNally's comedv about two married couples sharing a Fourth of July weekend at a Fire Island beach house. Patton Oswalt is also in the cast. the production will open April 29 at the Ameri-

can Airlines Theatre.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

On MTV's reality television show Jersey Shore, the Beachcomber Bar is a place where the clothes are skimpy and punches can flv.

But there's another reality in the resort town Seaside Heights, which is both a setting and a state of mind on the show about eight buff, tanned twentysomethings and the havoc they create while living together for a month in a posh home.

As the show airs this month and next, the town of some 3,100 year-round residents is hushed. Most of the boardwalk businesses are closed. Only a few fishermen and some beach rehabilitation workers are out. The Ferris wheel and carnival games are shuttered.

THE IMAGINARIUM OF

IN THEATRES CHRISTMAS DAY

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A PAIR OF A RUN OF

ENGAGEMENT PASSES TO SEE

THE IMAGINARIUM OF DOCTOR PARNASSUS

On real Jersey shore, everyone's a critic

And the people who are around this time of year say this just isn't the same place as the one on the show, which was filmed in

the summer when the town's population grows tenfold with families at the beach by day and a sometimes wild club scene by night.

Just as one group of Italian-Americans has protested, claiming the show gives them a bad name, many locals think it smears the community.

"You're trying to create a family town, and you got a bunch of kids acting very rude, and it doesn't create

a good image," said John LaStalla, a 44-year-old native and municipal worker.

The stars, mostly Italian-Americans with only one from New Jersey, dance, pump iron and party — a lot. They work in a T-shirt shop — a little. And their specialty is drama, whether it involves each other, the they meet, boyfriends from home or moms. Though unscripted, there are echoes of sitcoms.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

38 entertainment



Ellen and Portia top favourite celeb couples list

Celebrity tweets

procrastinate alone, Lady aga is worried about the

revellers at her show. Katy

Russell Brand is going mad

@joshgroban Anyone else

saving christmas shopping

@ladygaga on a scale of 1

to 10 exactly HOW intoxicat-

PLEASE don't faint in crowd

@katyperry Read a bunch

ed are you in the crowd.

for 4 pm on thurs?

Perry drives a

through the

rumours, and

with power.

vampire

stake

Josh Groban doesn't want to

Ellen DeGeneres and Portia de Rossi have a lot of fans. In a popeater.com poll asking who was the favorite celebrity couple of the year, the talk show host and actress took the top honour. POPEATER.COM

Celebrity Buzz

Murphy's death 'destroyed' husband

MORE DETAILS EMERGE Brittany Murphy's death has "destroyed" her husband, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The late Clueless actress' spouse, British screenwriter Simon Monjack, has spoken out about his beloved wife — who died of a cardiac arrest at her Los Angeles home aged inst 32 on Sunday — and his devastation at her pass-

He said on Monday that, "My world was destroyed yesterday."

Monjack also revealed life had been normal for the pair until she was found collapsed in the shower surrounded by her own vomit, although Brittany had been suffering from a sore throat recently.

Recalling how her lifeless body was discovered, he explained to Access Hollywood: Sharon went into the bathroom because she had been in there a long time. Her mom screamed for me and I ran. Then I called

"She had laryngitis. She

had been tired at the end

year. She had made a couple of movies.

Monjack has also denied rumours Brittany had been mixing with "controlling"

He explained: "I don't know why anyone would think that. She found love. We found love. Brittany didn't get to where Brittany was with anyone controlling her — Brittany was Brittany.

In related news, Los Angeles coroner's officials are looking into how details of an investigator's report on Brittany Murphy's death were leaked to TMZ.

Chief Assistant Coroner Ed Winter says he doesn't know how the website apparently obtained the confidential report.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Portman grateful to be an only child?

HOW DO YOU KNOW THEY WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN THE TALENTED ONES, NAT? Natalie Portman doesn't believe she would have become an actress if she'd had brothers or sisters. The star is an only child and doesn't believe her parand ents would have been able to devote so much time to her and take her to all her auditions if she'd had siblings. femalefirst.co.uk reports.

"I had the sole attention of my parents. And you know what? If I had had brothers or sisters I would



have never become an ac-

SERVIC-

toniaht little monsters, it distracts me :) of yesterdays-news-BULLOCKS, Ppl should know

by now that I don't do vampires, but I do, DO rustyrockets. Don't get it TWISTED! @rustvrockets I just read

that my tweets are the 3rd most influential in Britain. I will only use this power for good. Now send photos of vour sex organs...

> WORLD NEWS



Splitsville for Hills star Jenner, girlfriend

LADIES. TRY TO CONTAIN YOURSELVES Another couple from The Hills is reality-TV history. Brody Jenner and Playboy model Nicole have bro-Jayde ken up after about 15 months together, a source close Jenner confirms to

magazine.com.

Nicole, 23, hinted at the split on her Twitter account earlier in the month with a wistful entry: 'Sometimes when you truly love someone you

have to let them go.... I never really understood that until quote METRO

NEWS SERVICES

Is Tiger looking to mend image on SNL?

MEANWHILE, HE'S ON A BOAT Tiger Woods may be viewing a surprise appearance on Saturday Night Live as the best way to mend his image, according to MSNBC. "He's a little incredulous at the way he's being judged," a source says. "He thinks his golf game should be all people care about. If he went on SNL it would definitely change the conversation. Meanwhile, his vacht, Privacy, has set sail, possibly with Woods on it. "Tiger's boat Privacy has been







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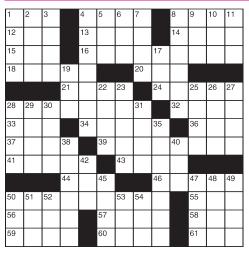




entertainment 39

Take Five

more delicious Metro recipes, visit: metronews.ca/food



Sudoku

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone - one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

	4							2
		9	1					
2		8		7	4			5
					3		8	1
		4		1		7		
6	3		8					
9			7	5		8		3
					6	9		
8							5	

ACROSS 1 Massachusetts cape 4 Eager 8 React in horror 12 Lawyers' org. 13 Baseball team 14 Church

section 15 Part of H.R.H., at times 16 "The Clue in the Crossword Ci-

pher" solver 18 Asian leader who inspired a jacket style 20 Small barrel 21 "Oh, woe!" 24 Antitoxin 28 Tapped

32 Ripped 33 Tatter 34 Binge 36 Past 37 Bit for Fermi 39 Patron of

Scotland 41 Foundation 43 Not pizzicato 44 Slight applica-

tion 46 Friars Club honor 50 "The Price Is Right" host 55 Scrooge's cry 56 Tittle

57 Unmacho tvpe 58 Work with 59 Vacillate 60 Lummox 61 "Honor - father ...'

1 Songwriter Sammy 2 Theater trophy 3 Morse's T 4 Ring 5 By way of 6 Hostel 7 Ship's floor 8 Thingie 9 Springtime abbr. 10 Away from NNW

11 Church perch 17 "Absolutely" 19 Uncooked

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

4

2 9 6

7

6

3

8

9 1 2

5

 (Π)

22 iPhone downloads 23 In a way, slangily 25 Bellow

26 Incite 27 Cat call 28 Hardly colorful 29 - -tat-tat

30 Hollywood clashers 31 Approach

35 Put into code 38 Carnival area 40 Scooby-

42 Pouch 45 Cry loudly 47 Touch

48 Obi or cummerbund 49 Yon folks 50 Insult

51 Tier 52 Greek vowel 53 "Flying Down to -

54 Ostrich's cousin

5 3 7 6 2 1 9 8

7 5 3

6 4 2

2 6 9

9 1 6

al daily

Piccole

4 8 6 5 3 7

6 7 9 1 3 8 2 4

LATELY I'VE BEEN

HAVING VISIONS OF SUGARPLUMS DANCING IN MY HEAD....

4 7

1 4 8

1 7 9 6 2 4 3 8 5

8 1 5 3 9

2 8 3 9 5

4 5 8 7 1

3 4 2 5 7

Metro Recipe of the Day



Pan-fried Chicken with Mushrooms and Blueberries

INGREDIENTS 1 tbsp (15 ml) all-purpose flour

4 skinless chicken breast fillets

2 tbsp (25 ml) olive oil 3 strips bacon, chopped 1/2 lb (250 g) chestnut mushrooms, sliced 1 tbsp (15 ml) Dijon mustard

7 oz (200 g) blueberries Juice of 1/2 lemon 3 tbsp (45 ml) finely chopped fresh parsley

METHOD:

1. Put flour into shallow dish and season well, then spread out. Add chicken breasts and turn to coat. Shake off excess. 2. Heat oil in frying pan over medium-high heat. Add chicken, reduce heat to medium and cook until

well browned underneath.

Turn over to brown other

side. Pierce middle of one breast with point of knife to check that meat is no longer pink.

3. Transfer chicken to serving dish. Add bacon to pan and cook, stirring, until cooked and fat runs out. Add mushrooms and continue to cook over fairly high heat, stirring, 2 minutes.

4. Add mustard to pan and stir with mushrooms and bacon. Gently stir in blueberries. Add lemon juice, stir and immediately remove pan from heat. Sprinkle in parsley, then spoon mushrooms and blueberries over chicken and serve.

SERVES 4

rd.ca

For nutritional infor mation on this and other great recipes, go to **rd.ca** or check out Key Ingredients



Horoscopes by Sally Brompton sallybrompton.com For Sally's expanded daily and weekend horoscopes, visit metronews.ca

ARIFS MARCH 21-APRIL 20

You may have bitten off a bit more than you can chew but there is no need to panic be-cause in a matter of days you will get your second wind.

SEPT 23-OCT 23

What other people want is irrelevant. It would appear that someone has been playing on your feelings to further their own position.

TAURUS

APRIL 21-MAY 21 You may be tempted to put off finishing something that has begun to take up a lot of time but considering the effort, that

would be a waste **SCORPIO** OCT 24-NOV 22

Something that has caused you a great deal of mental and emo-tional anguish will resolve itself to your satisfaction today.

GEMINI MAY 22-JUNE 21

It is of the utmost importance that you keep your thoughts positive, even though a num-ber of negative things appear to be happening in your life.

On the web

SAGITTARIUS NOV 23-DEC 21

You may not want to admit defeat but it seems you have no choice in the matter. Push your ego to one side and don't think it reflects badly on you.

CANCER JUNE 22-JULY 22

A relationship that has been through a tough time of late will get easier for both of you when love planet Venus moves into your opposite sign.

CAPRICORN **DEC 22-JAN 20**

If you focus your mind too intently in one particular direc-tion today you may miss out on something even more important, and enjoyable.

LEO JULY 23-AUG 23

The problem you are grappling with has a simple solution but vou seem unable to see it because you have convinced your self that there isn't one

AQUARIUS

JAN 21-FEB 18
Cosmic activity in the most sensitive area of your chart is making you feel vulnerable at the moment but there is no need to fear the worst.

VIRGO AUG 24-SEPT 22

Cut back on your commit-ments. Do fewer things for other people. That might sound selfish but you have been giving too much of yourself.

PISCES FEB 19-MARCH 20

Someone will say something less than friendly to you or about you today and you won't be too happy about it.

 (\mathfrak{H})

The gift your iPhone wants to see under the tree (and it's free!)







This day in history

1954: The first human kidney transplant is performed by Dr. Joseph E. Murray at Peter Bent Brigham Hospital in Boston, Massa-

1970: The North Tower of the World Trade Center in Manhattan, New York City is topped out at 1,368 feet (417 m), making it the tallest building in the world.

1972: The 16 survivors of the Andes flight disaster are rescued after 73 days, having survived by cannibalism.

1986: Voyager, piloted by Dick Rutan and Jeana Yeager, lands at Edwards Air Force Base in California becoming the first aircraft to fly non-stop around the world.



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